

STATE ROUTE 16: TACOMA NARROWS BRIDGE PROJECT

**Tacoma Narrows Bridge Project
Nighttime Construction Noise
Quarterly Report: April – June 2006**

*Submitted on July 14, 2006 to:
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**Washington State
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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Tacoma Narrows Constructors have been issued a noise variance by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. The variance was issued for noise levels expected to result from construction work between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in conjunction with the construction of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The variance was issued with several conditions, including that WSDOT provide quarterly reports to the Health Department on activities relevant to the variance.

This is the fourteenth quarterly report and covers the period including April through June 2006. The following areas are addressed in this report:

- Overview of Nighttime Construction Activities
- Communication Activities
- Upcoming Activities
- Attachments
 1. Nighttime construction activities log
 2. Noise flier - Scheduled Night Construction Activities: June - August 2006.

OVERVIEW OF NIGHTTIME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES : APRIL – JUNE '06

Land-based (roadway) construction activities took place on the project site between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on a total of seven (7) nights during the period including April, May, and June 2006. This work involved an emergency catch basin repair, preparations for traffic switch, and a traffic switch on the Gig Harbor mainline of eastbound SR 16, conducted during nighttime hours for safety and access purposes.

Bridge cable spinning, cable compaction and banding, and suspender cable installation activities took place at the Tacoma and Gig Harbor anchorages and over the Narrows on the new bridge on a total of seventy-seven (77) nights.

In total there were seventy-seven (77) days during which nighttime construction activities took place on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project during this last quarterly reporting period. During this period, no complaints were received by WSDOT about construction noise from the project that occurred during nighttime hours.

Specific descriptions of the type, location, time, and equipment used for this work are provided in Attachment 1.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

> INFORMATION & HOT LINE

A telephone information and “hotline” continues to be operational providing information about upcoming nighttime construction activities. It also provides residents an opportunity to communicate at any time of day with a live person about questions and/or concerns relating to the project nighttime construction activities and noise. This service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The phone number is 253-620-4440.

Nighttime construction activity information is provided in a recorded message by a dedicated staff person, and updated, as necessary, to provide the most current information. Messages can also be left on the information line concerning the nighttime construction activities and these messages will be responded to within 24 hours (on project working days).

Residents can also communicate directly with a person who can provide relevant information about project nighttime construction activities, accept comments, and if appropriate, directly contact WSDOT project staff. When project construction activities are taking place, the person staffing the “hot line” is able to immediately contact WSDOT project staff and to relay comments/complaints received. If requested by the caller, WSDOT project staff will return the call as soon as feasible.

> WEBSITE

To maximize public access to timely information about nighttime construction activities, a section of the project’s web site is dedicated to providing quick, easy access to information concerning nighttime construction activities. Information on this web site is updated weekly or daily to provide the most current information.

Comments and concerns about the nighttime construction activities can be submitted to project staff through the web site and will be responded to within 24 hours (on project working days).

> POSTAL CARRIER ROUTE MAILINGS

On November 2, 2005, the Tacoma-Pierce County Noise Control Hearings Board granted extension to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project’s Conditional Noise Variance through December 31, 2008 or completion of the bridge construction project, whichever occurs sooner. The Board’s decision also amended the “Communication Plan for Nighttime Construction Noise” to require that information sheets (“Community Fliers”) be prepared and mailed “three times per year and as needed.”

The TNB Project prepared and mailed an information flier to the community on May 30, 2006, which described the planned nighttime construction work for summer 2006 (June – August). A copy of this noise information flier is provided as Attachment 2.

The project intends to mail its' 2nd and 3rd fliers for the year in September and December of 2006, or more frequently as needed. Each information flier is mailed to approximately 4000 addresses.

COMPLAINT RESPONSE & RESOLUTION

During this quarter (April - June '06), WSDOT received no complaints about noise from the project occurring during nighttime hours.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

During the upcoming quarter, July – September '06, construction activities will continue throughout the project site along the SR 16 corridor from Jackson Avenue to the vicinity of 36th Street.

The new bridge deck sections were delivered to the TNB Project via ocean vessel on June 29th. Lifting of the first deck section is scheduled to occur on approximately July 21, 2006. The deck lifting and assembly operation will continue into December 2006, and is conducted during double shifts, from 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to approximately 2:30 a.m. Equipment used includes tower and gantry cranes, winches, and welding tools.

While roadway work will take place on each side of the Narrows along the full length of the project corridor, the vast majority of this work will be conducted during daytime hours. The project's prevailing roadway construction strategy is to shift mainline SR 16 traffic onto temporary alignments that can be maintained for extended periods while most construction of new roadways takes place away from traffic. The relatively small amount of nighttime work required by this strategy is for construction of the "tie-ins" between the roadway configurations, the actual shifting of traffic lanes, and occasional short duration work requiring temporary lane closures for worker and public safety. Specific planned nighttime roadway work in the upcoming quarter includes preparation for a traffic shift on the Tacoma side eastbound SR 16 mainline, following completion of the new eastbound Jackson Avenue off-ramp.